Listing of Claims

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of removal of abnormal infective prion proteins associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopies (TSEs) from an aqueous liquid which consists essentially of passing the liquid through a depth filter formed of a matrix comprising (a) a binder and (b) kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof and having a pore size providing a retention less than 6 μm, and so removing abnormal infective prion proteins which may be present in the liquid such that the liquid is non-infective with respect to prion protein infectivity, wherein the aqueous liquid is a blood plasma product derived from plasma.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the binder is cellulose.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, carried out in the absence of cationic or anionic charged material.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 carried out at a pH in the range 4 to 10.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 6 microns.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 1.5 microns.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the depth filter has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plasma is human plasma.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the blood plasma product is selected from the group consisting of albumin, an immunoglobulin, Factor IX, thrombin, fibronectin, fibrinogen, Factor VIII, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor IX, and Factor X.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a product selected from the group consisting of heparin and hormones.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the abnormal infective prion protein is associated with conditions selected from the group consisting of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, bovine spongiform encephalopy and scrapie.

17-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the blood plasma product is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins and albumin.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the filter is pretreated with

ethanol.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of removal of abnormal infective prion proteins associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopies (TSEs) from a plasma fraction, wherein the method consists essentially of passing the plasma fraction through a depth filter formed of a matrix comprising (a) a binder and (b) kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof and having a pore size providing a retention less than 6 μm, and so removing abnormal infective prion proteins which may be present in the plasma fraction such that the plasma fraction is non-infective with respect to prion protein infectivity.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the depth filter has a permeability of 110 or 220 $L/m^2/min$.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the depth filter is a single use filter.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous liquid is a cell-free blood plasma product.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the plasma fraction consists essentially of a protein selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins and albumin.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the depth filter is pretreated with ethanol.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the depth filter is a single use filter.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pore size is more than a pore size that is too small to allow passage of plasma proteins and the depth filter is a single use filter.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the blood plasma product derived from plasma passes through the depth filter.